

## General Electric Company Former Appliance Park East Facility Columbia, MD



### The Challenge

In 1970, GE constructed its Appliance Park East facility on a 1,125-acre parcel of land purchased from Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD). From 1972 to 1990, GE manufactured household appliances, primarily electric ranges and ovens, at the facility. By June 1990, GE discontinued all operations at the facility and decommissioned the buildings and equipment associated with the manufacturing operations. GE was then faced with the problem of what to do with this large parcel of industrial property.

### The Solution

Most of the 1,125-acre property was sold back to the original owner, HRD, for redevelopment. GE currently owns only 18 acres of the original parcel but retains the environmental responsibility for

the entire site, pursuant to a RCRA Corrective Action permit. To facilitate the redevelopment, GE fast tracked parts of the investigation and remediation which allowed construction to begin and tenants to move in quickly.

EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment continue to review the ongoing remediation at this facility, which includes a soil vapor extraction system for soil contamination and a pump-and-treat system to address groundwater contamination. These remediation efforts are not hindered by the redevelopment at the site and have been operating for a number of years. Although GE no longer owns or operates the facility, GE is committed to addressing areas at the facility that have been affected by historical operations.

### The Benefit

The facility is now unrecognizable from the original manufacturing site. It is located in a fast-growing area within commuting distance from both Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C., making it an



attractive location for new housing developments. One area of the once industrial site has been converted to a busy shopping center, Snowden Square Shopping Center, with many stores, restaurants and a multi-screen movie theater. Another large part of the original 1,125-acre GE site has been redeveloped as the Gateway Commerce Center, where several office buildings and a hotel are now located. One of the original GE manufacturing buildings has been completely renovated and now houses office space.

### For More Information

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